

THE ALPS....BY DURAS.

Translated for the New World....BY E. S. GOORN.

The next morning a Tyrolean air, sung by my guide under my window, awakened me at day-light.

One must have traveled in Germany, to be convinced how thoroughly the spirit of music pervades the land. The children, lulled to sleep by the national airs, hum them with their earliest nectars; men, without knowledge of the science, breathe forth harmonious sounds with a charm that we often seek in vain from the most accomplished artists. Here are never heard the harsh grating tones of the children of the plains of France, nor the wild cries of the guides of the Savoy mountains; but echoing songs, modulations, variations, are reproduced ad infinitum from a few notes only; octaves are boldly overleaped; pieces are undertaken by six people, each of whom seizes from the outset the part that suits his voice, follows it in all its variations, and ornaments it as no other country can produce, save Italy—and even she, in an inferior degree.

My guide, thinking I had not heard him, began a second air in a higher key; I opened my windows and listened to the end.

"Shall we have good weather Willer?" I inquired.

"Yes," he replied, "for I hear the mornin' biss, and that's a good sign; and if you will consent to set out at once, we can reach Grindervald by three o'clock, so that you will have time to visit the glacier before night fall."

This suggestion was sufficient; and I soon stood at the door of the inn, prepared cap-a-pie, to resume the life of a mountaineer, hunter, artist, and poet; album in pocket, carbine on shoulder, steel in hand, and eyes wide open. Thus to travel is to live, in all the fulness of the word. It is to forget past and future in the present; to draw a full breath; to enjoy every thing; to take possession of creation as it is bequeathed to me.

Formerly there lived in the valley of Gadmünn a bold man, who was very powerful in the magic art and who had a manner of animals in subjection under him. On every night that intervened between Saturday and Sunday, he called together on the highest mountain, sometimes the hours, sometimes the angles, sometimes the septuaginta, etc., etc. He then traveled with his wand in a circle about the place where he stood, which circle the animals dared not cross, and issued his commands. These were immediately executed throughout the Oberland. One night, however, when the dragons and serpents were taking their turn of service, he commanded such things that they refused to obey him. The magician, enraged at this obstinacy, had recourse to charms that he had never before vented upon; for he was aware, equally, of their guilt and their potency. Scarcely had the cabaret words passed his lips when two dragons detached themselves from the group of reptiles that surrounded him and moved quickly toward a neighboring cavern. He supposed that they were about to slay him, but they soon reappeared, bearing on their backs an enormous serpent with eyes glowing like carbuncles, and wearing on its head a crown of diamonds. This was the king of the basilisks. The dragons approached the magic circle, and, lifting their sovereign high in the air, drew him within the sphere, which he thus was enabled to pass without touching. The magician had barely time to sign himself with the cross and exclaim, "Iam! Iam!" On the morrow he was found dead within the infernal circle, which ever since has been cursed with perpetual sterility.

We immediately leaped out of the unblowned spot; and, continuing our route toward Grindervald, reached it in safety, without encountering either the king or queen of the basilisks. We stopped at an inn long enough to order dinner, and then proceeded at once to the glacier, which is distant from the village only fifteen minutes' walk. N. B.—No Machine Cut Type manufactured at this Country.

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